

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 2nd, 2007
SGW Campus H 769 10:00 am

PRESENT: Mr. Keith Pruden, Chair, Ms. Beverley-Ann Morris, Secretary, Ms. A. Arrizza, Mr. N. Bleser, Ms. C. Boujaklian, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Mr. A. Ferrero, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms. I. Lacelle, Ms. L. Lipscombe, Dr. M. Mulrennan, Ms. A. Novoa, Ms. K. Sheahan, Mr. M. Small, Ms. L. Stanbra, Ms. St-Laurent, Mr. N. Stewart, Ms. L. Toscano, Mr. M. Venema, Ms. R. Wangechi, Ms. R. R. Zhu

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. D. Caputo, Ms. M. Drew, Ms. K. Hedrich, Mr. O. Moran, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. R. Schieir

DELEGATES: Ms. M. Lessard for Ms. J. de Cubellis

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Mr. Ferrero.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no remarks from the Chair.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF January 26th, 2007.

A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Housing and Job Bank (HOJO)

Ms. Novoa circulated a document containing the HOJO semi-annual financial report and stating that the HOJO is seeking funding from CCSL. She informed Council that the report refers to the HOJOs budgetary activities for services offered. The Chair advised Council to take time to peruse the report suggesting that questions or comments be broached at the next meeting. It was agreed that the HOJO Coordinator would attend the next meeting in order to respond to questions.

5.2 Healthy Campus Initiative

As Mr. Moran was absent, Mr. Small gave a brief report on the initiative. He stated that the group discussed having the "Take the Stairs" campaign be their first project. The

committee is developing ideas to beautify the stairwells in order to improve the appeal of taking the stairs. Council discussed the fact that the 'no smoking' signs on the Mackay entrance to the Hall building have been removed. It was agreed that the signs should be replaced and Ms. Boujaklian will look into their replacement. In addition, the Chair agreed to discuss the issue with the Director of Security.

5.3 Arts & Science Federation of Associations (ASFA) Accreditation

Mr. Stewart reported that the ASFA accreditation drive was successful and he thanked the Dean of Students office for their assistance. He indicated that all Arts and Science classes were polled, resulting in 7,400 votes being cast. Ninety-five percent of the votes were in support of accreditation. ASFA is now waiting for the city of Montreal in order to proceed with the next step. The Chair congratulated ASFA on the drive adding that it was very well organized and went very smoothly.

5.4 Budget & Funding Subcommittee

The Chair advised Council that Ms. Drew sent her regrets that she was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Small reported that the committee had met three times since the last Council meeting. The Committee is looking into various sponsorship ideas. They are looking at including the office of University Alumni and hope to have a representative from the Alumni office attend the next meeting.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 Walksafe Funds

The Chair advised Council that two proposals for funding had been circulated. The first is from the Financial Aid and Awards Office (FAAO) and the second is from the CSU. Ms. Stanbra informed Council that the FAAO is requesting \$25,000 be allocated towards an emergency account that would subsidize students' short-term needs. The funding would be made available in the form of vouchers for students to access emergency supplies, (for example pharmacy vouchers, vouchers towards bus tickets), while waiting for more stable funding. The emergency fund would cover a period of five years, so that there would be \$5,000 available to students each year. The Chair reiterated that it was established that as there are no requests for on-campus escorts, Council agreed to use the Walksafe funds for other areas requiring increased funding.

Council discussed the proposal and it was established that the fund would be in addition to current emergency funds available through the FAAO; however, these funds would be held in a separate account. Council had concerns about how to notify students that the funds were available and Ms. Stanbra indicated she felt it unwise to publicly advertise that fund. She stated that although there are some established criteria, each case is assessed on the basis of individual need. She added that students requesting financial

assistance should be referred to the FAAO. The Chair added that he has sat in on a few assessment cases and found it to be a thorough process that reviews each case individually. Ms. Sheahan added that there are currently food coupons available to students through Athletics and the addition of FAAO vouchers would be welcomed. There would be opportunity to assess student needs in order to ascertain various levels of urgency. She indicated that at a later date Council could be updated as to how the various coupons services are going. She also informed Council that there is a tracking system for the coupons through the office of Auxiliary Services. Information is compiled when the booklets of coupons are returned. She indicated that perhaps the same could be done for the FAAO coupons. Council discussed the issue further and it was agreed that the initiative should be supported. The following motion was made by Ms. Stanbra and seconded by Mr. Stewart:

BIRT CCSL approves the proposal presented by the FAAO to set aside \$ 25,000 of Walksafe funds to create an emergency fund to subsidize the immediate temporary needs of students.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Small presented the proposals from the CSU. He stated that some are projects from past years that remain incomplete. The CSU has 5 proposed projects:

- 1) Addition of a new security camera in the quadrangle at Loyola
- 2) Outdoor ice skating rink at the Loyola Quadrangle beginning January 2008
- 3) Sustainable heated bus shelter at Loyola
- 4) Hive Renovation
- 5) Bench at Shuttle bus stop downtown

The CSU is requesting \$8, 000 to add a security camera in the Quadrangle at Loyola. The installation of the camera is a major criterion for the skating rink project and it would also serve as on-campus security. The CSU is also requesting \$ 5, 000 for the installation of a skating rink in the Quadrangle. Mr. Small indicated that he had discussed the camera and the rink with the Facilities Operations and the Department of Security and both departments agreed that the camera would be one condition upon which the rink would be approved. Mr. Small added that installing the camera would be using the fund in the way it was originally intended. A lengthy discussion ensued it was established that the Quadrangle is not a very well lit area and the installation of cameras would help to improve safety. Council also agreed that the skating rink required more investigation. The Chair stated that other University departments need to be involved, namely the University Counsel for issues of liability. The actual construction of the rink needs to be discussed with other departments. As the two projects are related, Council agreed to place both projects on hold until discussions of the logistics of the rink are complete. It was noted that it might be possible to have the rink on the field adjacent to the Athletics complex. In that instance the security of the Quadrangle would need to be discussed further. Mr. Ferrero suggested that \$ 5,000 be earmarked towards the installation of

lights at Loyola. The Chair indicated that he wished to discuss the issue with security beforehand.

Next, the CSU proposed the installation of a sustainable heated bus shelter at Loyola. The CSU is requesting \$25,000 be allocated to the installation of the shelter and according to Mr. Small the current shelter is not being used because students find it to be just as cold inside the shelter as it is outside. Therefore the student union looked into installing additional glass panels to help block the wind and to move the entrance to the shelter closer to Sherbrooke Street. However, they feel that students would prefer a heated bus shelter and so they are proposing the installation of an enclosed bus shelter that would have solar a paneled roof. Council discussed the proposal and it was noted that an enclosed shelter would encourage student use and would make students feel safe and comfortable. Council agreed that solar panel technology is not advanced enough to ensure it would be a sustainable heating source. If the shelter were to be heated by electricity, it would be necessary to decide who absorbs the cost of the heating. Council was also informed by Mr. Côté that the cost of the current bus shelter was well over \$ 75, 000 and it is likely that a new, sustainable shelter would exceed that amount. Ms. Lipscombe reminded Council that there are strict city zoning laws that were addressed during the installation of the current bus shelter and rebuilding may mean revisiting those issues. Further to Council's discussion about perhaps relocating the shelter, the Chair reminded Council that the Loyola Chapel is a historical site and thus there are strict guidelines regarding building around the structure. Ms. Sheahan expressed an interest in being involved in discussions to relocate the bus stop as she feels the stop currently faces the wrong direction and perhaps the lot adjacent to the sports complex would be a suitable alternative. Council discussed earmarking an amount of money until a more detailed proposal can be presented. The following motion made was by Mr. Ferrero and seconded by Mr. Bleser.

BIRT CSSL agrees to earmark \$25, 000 towards the proposed new bus shelter at Loyola until the CCSL meeting of May 2007; at which time the CSU will present a more detailed proposal.

The motion was carried with 2 opposing votes.

Ms. Novoa informed Council that the CSU will renovate the Hive at Loyola and they are seeking \$25, 000 from CCSL to further the project. She explained that the total estimated cost of the renovations is \$600, 000 of which the University has pledged \$300, 000. The new location will be half café and half bar, offering students an alternate menu than what is currently available. The renovations will begin in May and the new Hive is expected to open in September 2007. The CSU will also be investing in the new venture and they feel that this is an opportunity for Council to lend support and guidance as well as a financial contribution.

Council discussed the project and it was established that the \$ 25,000 would be added to the pool of funding towards the project, specifically the renovations in the kitchen. The CSU agreed to meet with Chartwells to discuss ways in which both kitchens could be utilized efficiently. Council was assured that the café would offer a healthier menu as the

CSU has hired another food provider for the café. A motion to fund the CSU renovations at the Hive in the amount of \$ 25,000 was made by Ms. Novoa.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Next, The CSU requested \$ 1,000 to fund the installation of a bench at the shuttle bus stop at the SGW campus. The Chair indicated that the project likely involves other university departments and the Dean of Students Office would fund this project if it were deemed plausible.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

8. NEXT MEETING

April 13th, 10:00 am in H 769

9. TERMINATION OF THE MEETING

Given the elapsed allotted time, Council unanimously agreed to terminate the meeting and resume discussions at the next meeting.